

# **California Alternate Performance Assessment (CAPA)**

## **Operational Q & A**

**Q: Do all students need to take CAPA or the standard STAR assessments?**

**A:** Beginning in the 2002-03 school year, CAPA is California's alternate assessment for California's Standardized Testing and Reporting (STAR). All students enrolled in grades 2-11 are expected to participate in California's state assessment program by either taking the standard assessments (CAT/6 and the California Standards Tests) or the alternate assessment (CAPA).

**Q: Who is to take the CAPA?**

**A:** Special education students with moderate to profound cognitive disabilities enrolled in grades 2-11. If the student is considered "ungraded" subtract 5 from the student's age to determine grade placement.

**Q: How do schools determine which level of the CAPA a student will take?**

**A:** The CAPA has 5 levels. Most students eligible for the CAPA will take the level corresponding to their grade placement. Level II is for grades 2-3, Levels III for grades 4-5, Levels IV for grades 6-8, and Level V for grades 9-11. Some students with complex profound disabilities may be eligible for Level I.

**Q: How is eligibility for Level I determined?**

**A:** For the 2003 administration, the student's teacher or case carrier, may determine eligibility for Level I, if the student's Individualized Education Program (IEP) is not held prior to the testing window. In subsequent years eligibility for Level I will be the responsibility of the IEP team. For specific guidance about determining the student's CAPA level see [www.cde.ca.gov/spbranch/sed/capa/detrmvl.htm](http://www.cde.ca.gov/spbranch/sed/capa/detrmvl.htm)

**Q: What content areas are assessed by the CAPA?**

**A:** For the 2003 administration, students will receive scores in English Language Arts and mathematics. The health content area will be considered a field test and students will not receive scores in this area. Additional content areas may be added in subsequent years.

**Q: How many items are there for each CAPA content area?**

**A:** 8

**Q: What is the estimated time it takes to administer the CAPA per student?**

**A:** Approximately 20 minutes per content area

## **California Alternate Performance Assessment (CAPA) Operational Q & A**

**Q: If you use adaptations, how do you indicate what you did so test results will indicate that the student responded in an accommodated manner?**

**A:** You do not have to record test adaptations on a student's CAPA answer document. Given the extremely diverse population eligible for CAPA, the assessment is designed to allow for adaptations.

**Q: Will there be an opportunity for make-up tests for students absent during the testing window?**

**A:** Make-ups can be done during the chosen test days, but not beyond that period of time. If a student is absent for the entire testing period the answer document should be returned and marked absent.

**Q: For students with 1:1 support from a paraprofessional (not certified or licensed) may the paraprofessional administer the CAPA or participate as an adaptation?**

**A:** The paraprofessional may assist in the administration of CAPA but the scoring must be done by a certified or licensed professional trained in the CAPA administration.

**Q: Who can be second raters to help establish the interrater reliability? Must the second rater know the student?**

**A:** Second raters must be certificated or licensed and must be trained in CAPA administration. They should be familiar with students with significant disabilities, but it is not necessary that they know the students.

**Q: If our school does not Pre-ID student answer documents, how do we determine which students should be double rated?**

**A:** The requirement to double rate 20% of the students taking CAPA refers to 20% of the tested population within a district or county Local Education Agency (LEA). So the LEA should determine through a random process which students will be double rated.

**Q: Will test manipulatives be the same each year or will we need to gather different manipulatives each year?**

**A:** New test items will be developed each year, thus some will require specific manipulatives. Items writers will be instructed to write items using materials commonly available in classrooms.

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**Q: The treat changed the results for the student in the DVD Special Example. Should we do this for all students?**

**A:** Examinees are encouraged to prepare students to give their best performance. Some students may need an extrinsic reward for motivation, others are eager to participate and please the examiner. Students should be praised for good effort either between tasks or at the completion of a content area. The decision to provide an extrinsic reward must be made before testing begins. The example on the DVD was illustrative and does not imply that examinees can re-administer items after a student does not do well.

**Q: If a student is given Level I and it turns out to be too easy, will they need to be reassessed at their grade assigned level the same year?**

**A:** No, the change of levels should be done the next year.

**Q: Will CAPA results be posted on the California Department of Education website as other assessment results by school and district and state?**

**A:** Yes, Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) and the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB) require that the results from alternate assessments be reported to the public in the same manner as the general assessments. In order to maintain student confidentiality, test results will not be reported publicly for fewer than 11 students.

**Q: Can a parent exempt their child from CAPA? If so, do they use the same format as for the CAT/6 & CST's?**

**A:** Since CAPA is part of STAR, the same parent waiver provision applies. It is not allowed to solicit parent exemptions. If a parent wishes to exempt their child from STAR, he/she must follow local procedures in submitting written notice.

**Q: For Levels II-V is the decision for level of testing based solely on the student's grade equivalent?**

**A:** Yes

**Q: Would you recommend showing portions of the DVD to parents of special education students?**

**A:** The DVD can be used with any individuals or groups who need to know more about the CAPA.

**Q: Can we make copies of the DVD?**

**A:** Yes

## **California Alternate Performance Assessment (CAPA) Operational Q & A**

**Q: Can CAPA be ordered in Braille version?**

**A:** No, during the development of CAPA, practitioners who work with students with both visual impairments and significant cognitive disabilities reported that these students don't usually become literate in Braille. See the Core Adaptations for suggested ways to adapt test items for visually impaired students.

**Q: Will schools be reimbursed for administering the CAPA?**

**A:** Since CAPA is part of the STAR Program, schools will receive an apportionment per student assessed.

**Q: Will CAPA be included in the API?**

**A:** CAPA is scheduled to be included in the 2003 Base API.

**Q: If STAR coordinators have CAPA testing materials more than 1 week ahead of time, can the examiners have them to begin preparing?**

**A:** This would have to be agreed upon at the local level. The directive for STAR Coordinators is to deliver the test materials to examiners at least a week before the scheduled start date of testing.

**Q: How do CAPA examiners maintain the security of the test materials?**

**A:** Test materials are not to be removed from the school campus (except in cases where testing must be done in a student's home or another setting). The test materials must be stored in a locked cabinet when not being used.

**Q: If CAPA eligible students have a parent exemption, is this documented on the STAR answer document or the CAPA answer document?**

**A:** Both